

Message Text

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ACTION SSM-05

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SINAI 1909

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FOR DIRECTOR KONTOS FROM HUNT

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: OGEN, AFSP
SUBJECT: RENEGOTIATION OF SFM CONTRACT

REF: KONTOS/HUNT LETTER DATED AUGUST 3, 1978

1. CONCUR IN YOUR ASSESSMENT THAT PRUDENT COURSE OF ACTION IS TO WAIT UNTIL NOVEMBER 1 TO RELEASE RFP TO INDUSTRY ON RENEGOTIATION OF CONTRACT SINCE BY THAT DATE WE WILL KNOW THE RESULTS OF THE CAMP DAVID CONFERENCE AND WHAT IF ANY ACTION WILL BE TAKEN ON RENEWAL OF UNEF MANDATE ON OCTOBER 22.

2. FROM OPERATIONAL POINT OF VIEW POST FORESEES NO DIFFICULTY WITH LATER DATE.

3. HOWEVER, I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE ONE OR TWO OBSERVATIONS CONCERNING DIFFICULTIES IN BREAKING NEWS TO ISRAELIS AND EGYPTIANS. IF THE CAMP DAVID CONFERENCE GOES WELL, THERE WILL BE A MARKED LESSENING IN TENSIONS AND IT SHOULD BE A RELATIVELY EASY CHORE TO CONVINCE THE RESPECTIVE PARTIES THAT THE RECOMPETITION OF THE CONTRACT IS A ROUTINE FEATURE OF US GOVERNMENT POLICY. YOUR VISIT IN EARLY OCTOBER SHOULD BE AN IDEAL TIME TO MAKE SUCH A REPRESENTATION TO THE PARTIES.
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ON THE OTHER HAND IF THE RESULTS OF THE CAMP DAVID MEETING ARE NEGATIVE OR INCONCLUSIVE, IT WILL BE NEXT TO IMPOSSIBLE TO INTRODUCE A RECOMPETITION PROCEDURE INTO THE ATMOSPHERE OF TENSION AND MISTRUST WHICH COULD RESULT FROM THE MEETING'S FAILURE. THEREFORE, IF THE CAMP DAVID CONFERENCE IS NOT POSITIVE WE SHOULD ANTICIPATE RESCHEDULING THE RECOMPETITION TO A LATER DATE.

HUNT

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